

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Perspective Paper on
Draft Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Water Supply Paper

1. The Point of the Water Supply Paper Should Be Made More Clearly

A review of the Draft Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Water Supply Paper (Water Supply Paper) leaves the reader wondering what the purpose of the paper is. Fortunately, the Water Supply Paper includes a preface which states that the intent is to provide background information to the Bay-Delta Oversight Council (BDOC) regarding water supplies today and in the future, focusing on the Delta's integral role in the water management system. However, the purpose of the paper should be clear from reading the document, without having to read the preface. Some suggestions for making this more clear are discussed below.

Explain Why Statewide Demands and Supplies Are Included

Metropolitan presumes that statewide supplies and demands are included in Section I of the Water Supply Paper only to provide background information which identifies the significant statewide need to make up projected water shortages, and highlights the critical role of the Delta in doing so. While this is excellent background information, Metropolitan strongly encourages BDOC to focus its activities on the Delta watershed. Towards this end, it should be made clear in the introduction to this section that the reason for presenting statewide demands and supplies is only to provide background on the significant supply needs of the state, much of which is dependent on the Delta.

Add a Conclusion Section

One way in which the intent of the Water Supply Paper to describe the Delta's integral role in water management is accomplished in the document is by highlighting in bold, italicized text, statements made throughout the document regarding the importance of the Delta. In order to make these points even more effectively, Metropolitan recommends that a new, conclusion section be added to the Water Supply Paper. This conclusion section should emphasize the importance of the Delta by pulling together in one place a summary of the bold-text points scattered throughout the preceding sections of the document.

2. Immediate Action Is Needed

Section I of the Water Supply Paper clearly shows that the State needs to take quick action to develop options to eliminate future shortages. The chronic and severe shortages identified are certain to affect the economic and environmental well-being of the State. Metropolitan agrees with the statement in the document that, in taking action to eliminate current and future shortages, fixing the Delta should be the first priority. This is an important point which should be stressed in the suggested conclusion section.

3. Need for Joint Federal-State Process

The proposed conclusion section should also recognize, as Governor Wilson did in his December 15, 1993 statement regarding actions to address Delta issues, that a joint federal-State process is essential for the timely development of necessary environmental protections to allow continued availability of Delta water supplies.